

## VICTORIAN SOCIETY'S HYPOCRISY AND ITS' IMPACT TO THE FEMALE CHARACTERS IN GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S *MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION*

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### Abstrak

Kemunafikan adalah salah satu persoalan sosial yang biasa terdapat dalam karya sastra. Masyarakat Victoria dalam drama *Mrs. Warren's Profession* adalah termasuk masyarakat yang terkenal munafik. Penelitian ini difokuskan pada pengaruh kemunafikan masyarakat Victoria terhadap tokoh perempuan yang dimana mereka harus berjuang melawan kemunafikan masyarakat tempat mereka tinggal. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah drama karya George Bernard Shaw yang berjudul *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. Data utama diambil dari sumber data yang mengimplikasikan kemunafikan masyarakat Victoria serta pengaruh dari kemunafikan terhadap tokoh perempuan. Data utama dianalisis bersama dengan data pendukung yang diambil dari buku-buku, kritik sastra, artikel, dan tulisan yang berkaitan. Peneliti menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi untuk mengetahui hubungan sosial dalam drama yang berkaitan dengan kemunafikan masyarakat Victoria. Penelitian kali ini akan mengemukakan dua permasalahan yang akan dibahas : 1. Bagaimana gambaran kemunafikan masyarakat era Victoria?. 2. Bagaimana kemunafikan masyarakat dapat mempengaruhi karakter perempuan dalam drama *Mrs. Warren's Profession*?. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa mayoritas masyarakat Victoria adalah munafik. Sosial status dan jabatan membuat mereka berusaha untuk terlihat baik namun kenyataannya tidak. Kemunafikan juga membuat Ny. Warren terjerumus dalam praktik rumah bordir. Dan putrinya Vivie, lebih percaya pada masyarakat daripada ibunya sendiri.

**Kata kunci :** kemunafikan, Victoria, sosiologi, dramaturgi

### Abstract

Hypocrisy is one of the social problems commonly found in literary works. The Victorian society in *Mrs. Warren's profession* as well-known as hypocrite society. This research focused on Victorian society's hypocrisy and its' impact to the female characters who have to fight against the hypocrisy of the society where they live. The data source of this study was the play by George Bernard Shaw entitled *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. The main data is taken from data sources which implies the hypocrisy of the Victorian's society and its' impact to the female characters. The main data were analyzed together with supporting data taken from books, literary criticism, articles and related articles. Researchers use a sociological approach to find out the social problems in the play that related to the hypocrisy of Victorian society. This study proposes two statement of the problem: 1. How is hypocrisy in Victorian society in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* depicted?. 2. How the hypocrite society influence the female characters in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*?. The results of this study indicate that Victorian's society are hypocrites. Social status and position make them try to look good but the reality is not. The hypocrisy also makes Mrs. Warren fell into the brothel owner. And her daughter Vivie, prefer to trust in society where she belongs than her mother.

**Keywords :** hypocrisy, society, Victoria, sociology, dramaturgy

## INTRODUCTION

George Bernard Shaw, an Irish author whose professional career as a playwright started at the end of the nineteenth century in London (Peters, 1998: 5 – 6) and lasted until his death in 1950 (Peters, 1998: 23), was well-known for his feminist sympathies. George Bernard Shaw was born on 26 July, 1856 in Dublin. He was the youngest child and the only son of George Carr Shaw and Lucinda Elizabeth (Bessie) Shaw. His education was irregular, due to his dislike of any organized training. After working in an estate agent's office for a while he moved to London as a young man (1876), where he established himself as a leading music and theatre critic in the eighties and nineties and became a prominent member of the Fabian Society, for which he composed many pamphlets. In 1852 he married Bessie Gurly; in the view of Shaw's biographer Michael Holroyd she married to escape a tyrannical great-aunt ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Bernard\\_Shaw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bernard_Shaw)). Bernard Shaw, was an Irish playwright, critic and polemicist whose influence on Western theatre, culture and politics extended from the 1880s to his death and beyond. He wrote more than sixty plays.

Shaw began his literary career as a novelist; as a loyal advocate of the new theatre of Ibsen (*The Quintessence of Ibsenism*, 1891) he decided to write plays in order to depict his criticism of the English stage. He wrote more than sixty plays. His plays were mostly about social problems such as education, religion, marriage, and class privileges. His earliest plays were *Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant* (1898). In plays such as *Arms and the Man* and *The Man of Destiny* the criticism is less fierce, but *Widower's Houses* (1892) and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (1893) savagely attack social hypocrisy ([www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1925/shaw-bio](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1925/shaw-bio)). Shaw's radical rationalism, his utter lack of conventions, his keen dialectic interest and verbal wit often turn

the stage into a forum of ideas and no more openly than the famous discourses.

While the novel was the dominant genre throughout the Victorian era, George Bernard Shaw left his mark on modern drama as a Victorian dramatist. Shaw adopted socialism and realism in his plays. He challenged the Victorian age which was most dominated by the musical comedies and melodramas for the entertainment of the theatregoers. Considering the overall condition of Victorian drama, it can be argued that Shaw is an important playwright in such a controversial and changing period to bring certain importance and role to the drama of the age. Shaw himself describes that the purpose of his first plays are to make people thoroughly uncomfortable as "criticism of a special phase, the capitalist phase, of modern organization." (Innes, 1998: 121). He was very much concerned with women's rights, and campaigned to provide women with more independence in different areas, for example in politics, theatre, the household, and so forth (Holroyd, 1979: 19-23): he wanted women to absolve themselves from everything that bounded them to do as they want.

*Mrs. Warren's Profession* is one of Shaw's plays. It was written in 1894 to draw attention to the truth that prostitution is caused not by female depravity and male licentiousness but simply by underpaying, undervaluing and over working women so shamefully that the poorest of them are forced to resort to prostitution to keep body and soul together (Shaw, 1884: 181). *Mrs. Warren's Profession* published in 1898 and first private performance was on Sunday fifth January 1902 at London's New Lyric Club in asylum because of the Lord Chamberlain's ban on this play. The first public performance was in London that took place on 27 July 1925, the year Shaw received the Nobel Prize in literature for his indomitable work on idealism and civilization, and spreading his message across the world for transparency and humanity

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Bernard\\_Shaw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bernard_Shaw)).

*Mrs Warren's Profession* brings the story of a prostitute and brothel-owner as degradation of women by which woman has to sell herself to superior men for social or economic reasons. The drama contains about the hypocrisies relating to prostitution. Shaw illustrated the position of subaltern prostitutes in the community. The alienated life of the prostitute and their children who have no position in society and regarded as subaltern. But Vivie Warren, Mrs. Warren's daughter breaks down all the Victorian society's assumptions and shines as an independent, hard-headed, and intelligent woman. Both female characters of the play, Mrs. Warren who is a brothel-owner and her daughter Vivie who is a Cambridge graduate, criticise the role of woman in the Victorian society.

Victorian era was the period of Queen Victoria's reign, from 20 June 1837 until her death on 22 January 1901. Ideologically, the Victorian era witnessed resistance to the rationalism that defined the Georgian period and an increasing change towards romanticism and mysticism with regard to religion, social values, and arts ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian\\_era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_era)). The common perception of the period is the Victorians are "prudish, hypocritical, stuffy, [and] narrow-minded" (Murfin, 2003: 496). Hypocrisy is often defined in social psychology as not "practicing what you preach" (Stone & Fernandez, 2008: 1024-1051), "saying one thing and doing another" (Barden, Rucker, & Petty, 2005: 1463-1474), it is called inconsistency and it is a hypocrisy because it involves dishonesty. Hypocrite people also usually publicly upholding moral norms, especially for others to follow, but personally violating them in private (Lammers, Stapel, & Galinsky, 2010: 737-744). Hypocrisy, the tendency among people to judge others more severely than they judge themselves. It additionally asserts the act of good standard or convictions of human behaviour. Hypocrisy

shows that ones are not consistent and always change anytime. Hypocrites are generally regarded as morally-corrupt, cynical egoists who consciously and deliberately deceive others in order to further their own interests (Stantman, 1997: 57).

Michael Holroyd who is the author of acclaimed biography of Bernard Shaw states (1988) that Shaw uses the socially disreputable profession as a metaphor for the way in which society actually conducts its business. Through the characterization, Shaw exposes hypocrisy of the society. Society assumes that prostitution of sexual slavery which is found in nearly all countries and is ethically and morally wrong, and this transaction is deemed "wrong", "immoral", "illegal", "unethical" even "degrading" even when the prostitute enters the transaction willingly.

In this play, Shaw aimed to suggest that the responsibility of prostitution is not personal but social. Shaw's infuriate the social criticism in this drama is clearly defined not by conventional morality, but by anger at the hypocrisy that allows society to blaming prostitution while excusing the discrimination against women that makes prostitution can not be avoided. It lies not with the people who work in brothels but with society itself which maltreats women by underestimating them, underpaying them and driving them to such professions (Purdum, 1963: no page). He also explores the personal consequences of such a profession as Mrs. Warren effort to gain the respect and love of her daughter after she know the truth about her profession. Whereas Shaw on the one hand presents the subaltern position of women through Mrs. Warren a prostitute, but on the other hand she presents a head strong and strong willed girl through Vivie Warren.

Vivie has been introduced as an sensible, attractive, and highly educated young middle class Englishwoman. She is prompt and



confident. She is interested in a business like dress. Praed calls her a kind and beauty young lady, he said that Vivie was perfect woman. Even though she smokes and likes whiskey, but she is full of self control, self respect and self confidence. Vivie's relationship with her mother is also unconventional, it is like in a way love-hate relationship. But, to Vivie, Mrs. Warren is a woman who travels a lot and hardworking. Despite the fact, she runs a chain of brothels in different cities around the world. Vivie who was financially supported by her mother but she don't know her mother's profession. Vivie really trust her mother, until she knows about her mother's profession. Therefore, the relationship between mother and child changes dramatically.

## METHOD

This study delivers words, sentence, and paragraph without any numbering. This is called qualitative library research. Qualitative means that this research describe the data and without any numbering. Qualitative research involves looking in-depth at non-numerical data. It means that the data of this research gained from person, behaviour or another either written or oral that can be analyzed by the researcher. The strengths of qualitative studies should be demonstrated for research that was exploratory or descriptive and that stressed on the importance of context, setting, and participants' frames of reference (Marshall and Rossman, 2006: no page).

This study also being done by using library research. Library research means that the researcher does not collect the data from the field research, researcher uses some books and many other sources as references that related to the subject matter that is being analyzed. The data that used in this research are information in the text play including words, phrases, sentences, dialogues, and narration that related with the topic of this research which is the hypocrisy of society in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.

This study is conducted by some steps to collect the data related to this research. A method close reading is taken for collecting the required data from the play. The first step was reading the main data of this research which is the text of the play. To analyze the problem, this study begin with deep reading and classifying the data based on the relevance, then learning that classification data and find the appropriate approach. Reading the text is not just once, it had to be read for many times of repeatedly and comprehensively to get the information clearly. The next step was reading the supporting data to find another information or references related to the study.

Techniques that researcher used are :

1. Reading the data in depth and classifying the data based on the relevance.
2. Learning more about the classified data.
3. The data were explicated through the definition based on the subject of the research.
4. The last step is making a conclusion, offering the suggestions and critics of the description of this analysis result of the research.

## ANALYSIS

### The Depiction of Hypocrisy in Victorian Society in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*

The movement for justice, freedom, and strong moral values dominated against greed, exploitation and cynicism intensified throughout the Victorian era. The importance of being highly regarded by others during the Victorian era stems from the attitude associated with the word "respectable". To be respectable meant that one valued the ideas of "sobriety, thrift, cleanliness of person, [...] honesty, [...] and chastity." (Altick, 1975: 175). The label ensures that a person is a good, honest, and moral one that particularly high-class person should have. Because of the reputation that matters, it is very important to

maintain honor and the appearance. People begin to hide their dark desires, bad traits, and mistakes, and keep their honorable faces to public.

The Victorian Era is well known for its strict social rules, but not all British people abide by the social rules. Included in this social order are marriages between men and women, as well as marriages in certain social classes. In Victoria, the standards of personal morality can be seen in social class and high levels of cohabitation without unlawful marriage and birth. The upper class consists of nobility and those who are considered to be from wealthy families. These families are held to the highest standards as a means of maintaining their social status. But when a particular member of this social class does not comply with existing social rules, they may face an unpleasant reaction.

Victorian era concern of morality and one of moral behavior is hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is the behavior of commenting on the immorality of a person regardless of his own morals, thereby maintaining the honor of one's position of power. Hypocrisy also claims the practice of moral standards or beliefs of human behavior. Based on that, it can be said that hypocrite people act inconsistently and always different all the time.

One of example of Victorian hypocrisy in reality is the scandal involving Prince Albert Victor who is the eldest son of Prince of Wales, granddaughter of Queen Victoria. He was engaged to Princess Mary of Teck, but his involvement in the Cleveland Street Scandal spoke differently not only of his sexuality but also of his social standing. In 1889 Detective Inspector Frederick Abberline led a gay brothel on 19 Cleveland Street. During the 18th century brothels were very common, but still illegal, falling under socially unacceptable territory. The Cleveland Street brothel is famous for its customers including many upscale men, including Prince Albert. The likelihood that

many of the top class individuals involved can be classified as homosexual causes a greater uproar. But his name was never mentioned during the trial, so his name was never tarnished, although many friends and family to prove his heterosexuality.

(<https://victorianscandal.wordpress.com/2012/08/30/victorian-morality-or-hypocrisy/>)

Those who are meant to be upper classes may not always have the same image that they show. They are those whom society holds to what can be known as the highest social order, but the evidence presented denotes a lower moral value. Their hypocrisy is that in public they try to set a good example and show a good standard of living, but in their real life, they differ greatly from what they have shown to the public.

In Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, one of Shaw's main topics is the Victorian society's hypocrisy and the impact of this hypocrisy on human relationships. The hypocrisy in the play can be regarded as an incompetence or the rejection of a character to live up to their ideals or virtues, and their attempt to conceal this moral deficiency. This is because mass hypocrisy raises fears of treatments such as being ostracized by respectable society, which prevents people from speaking out against social ills.

After the researcher analyzed the sociological analysis of *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, the researcher tries to discuss all aspects in sociology. Based on the play, Shaw wants to describe the morality of society in the Victorian era. According to Laurenson and Swingewood, sociological analysis is divided into social aspects, economic aspects, political aspects, cultural aspects, and religious aspects. In *Mrs. Warren's Profession* play, there are some quite dominant aspects, but each aspect has a role or purpose in the story and each character.

The social aspect of the drama is a reflection social aspect of Victorian society. The social aspect relates to the social circumstance of

society in that era, social relations, social structure, social interaction, and family structure. Social aspect in *Mr. Warren's Profession* can be seen in the social class. Social classes are divided into three classes such as upper or genteel class, middle class, and lower class. The upper classes have a glamorous life, they usually have a relationship with the same class. In this drama, the upper class is the most dominant and hypocritical class.

In this play, some people from the upper classes are portrayed as immoral like Sir George Croft. Sir George Crofts symbolizes the corrupt upper classes who benefit from immorality. Sir George Crofts is Mrs. Warren's business partner, who has invested 40,000 pounds in brothel, earning 35 percent.

CROFTS. The fact is, it's not what would be considered exactly a high-class business in my set--the county set, you know.... Not that there is any mystery about it: don't think that. Of course you know by your mother's being in it that it's perfectly straight and honest. I've known her for many years; and I can say of her that she'd cut off her hands sooner than touch anything that was not what it ought to be.... But you see you can't mention such things in society. Once let out the word hotel and everybody says you keep a public-house. You wouldn't like people to say that of your mother, would you? That's why we're so reserved about it.... Don't turn up your nose at business, Miss Vivie: where would your Newnhams and Girtons be without it?... You wouldn't refuse the acquaintance of my mother's cousin, the Duke of Belgravina, because some of the rents he gets are earned in queer ways. You wouldn't cut the Archbishop of Canterbury, I suppose, because the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have a few publicans and sinners among their tenants? Do you remember your

Crofts scholarship at Newnham? Well, that was founded by my brother the M.P. He gets his 22 per cent. out of a factory with 600 girls in it, and not one of them getting wages enough to live on. How d' ye suppose most of them manage? Ask your mother. And do you expect me to turn my back on 35 per cent. when all the rest are pocketing what they can, like sensible men? No such fool! If you're going to pick and choose your acquaintances on moral principles, you'd better clear out of this country, unless you want to cut yourself out of all decent society.... The world isn't such a bad place as the croakers make out. So long as you don't fly openly in the face of society, society doesn't ask any inconvenient questions; and it makes precious short work of the cads who do. There are no secrets better kept than the secrets that everybody guesses. In the society I can introduce you to, no lady or gentleman would so far forget themselves as to discuss my business affairs or your mother's. (Act III. 129-133)

While other top class members invest in illegal factories, Croft invests in brothels to make money. As a man who is known as honorable man, Croft would not show his immorality to other people because it will ruin his reputation in society. He covered up his immorality, he used social status and money to condense his mask. Croft also has the impression management to support his drama in front of other people. His impression management is when he perfectly set up himself as a recognized person in society and an honored member of his class.

Then, the middle class is a relative growth class. They can be higher or lower depends on their economic value (Liveset, 2006: 466-467). In this play, Frank Gardner as a Vivie's friend seemed to represent the middle class. Frank does not work and he has no money. His



father was a Reverend, and his family was not rich. However, the Frank family is a family that is quite honorable and has a social standing. His love for Vivie depended on his social and financial status, making him like a judgmental and hypocritical member of society.

FRANK. [...] it's not the moral aspect of the case: it's the money aspect. I really can't bring myself to touch the old woman's money now. (Act IV. 151)

This reveals Frank's hypocritical attitude that does not care about morality nor is it moral himself. In other word, he is one of the members of a society who exploits one another for personal gain and also has the courage to judge them.

The third social class in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* is the lower class. This class also called the working class and classified as the lowest class in social status. People who belong to this class have to work hard in their lives such as Mrs. Warren. But she is no longer part of the lower classes. She can move from the lower classes to the upper classes by becoming a brothel owner.

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The economic aspect in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* shows the British economy and as a reflection of the economic conditions of the Victorian era. The economic aspect in the play is influenced by the social conditions of society. The Victorian economic conditions are characterized by unemployment, poverty, unrest, slums in big cities and working conditions for women and children very badly. The Mid-Victorian Period (1848-1870) is a period of prosperity, improvement, stability and optimism. This

period saw remarkable developments in machinery that resulted in a lack of work for workers and the working class. Poor working conditions and underemployment encourage thousands of women to become prostitutes. (<http://www.victorian-era.org/victorian-era-economy.html>)

In *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, financial difficulties faced by Mrs. Warren and her family forced her to seek alternatives to cover up economic problems. Prostitution is one of the professions that promised profit at that time. Because by working as prostitutes, they do not have to work hard but they make a lot of money. Prostitution provides many changes and benefits to Mrs. Warren's life. Being a prostitute, she can get a better life and support the cost of living and educating her daughter. Prostitution is considered the only solution she can survive because people do not have much choice to choose the right job for women.

The house in Brussels was real high class; a much better place for a woman to be in than the factory where Anne Jane got poisoned. None of our girls were ever treated as I was treated in the scullery of that temperance place, or at the Waterloo bar, or at home. Would you have had me stay in them and become a worn-out old drudge before I was forty? (Act II. 105)

From the text above, Mrs. Warren aware of the few options that society provides for her. She learned that having jobs such as workers, or servants, or domestic helpers to survive economic difficulties is not the right path that can provide financial adequacy because she faces the fact that there is injustice for working class women. The low pay and long duration of work about fourteen hours a day served as a waiter and only got four shillings a week is the unfair thing she got. Of course, the working conditions and unsuitable payments make her not to continue the work. The worst of all was the death caused

by her half-sister who died of poisoning at the factory where she worked. So, she think that what she had done was useless and wasting time, then Mrs. Warren decides to become a prostitute as early done by her sister Lizzie does.

In this play, Shaw shows his political views. As a socialist, Shaw uses *Mrs. Warren's Profession* both as a defense against women and as a curse against the Capitalism as a whole. Shaw presents hypocrisy as responsible for exploitation in Victorian England, capitalist society. This is because mass hypocrisy raises fears of exclusion from respectable societies, which in turn make people unwilling to speak out against this real social disease. In his view, only the people such as Crofts and upper-class people who got benefit from Capitalism, while the poor such as Mrs. Warren should trade in dignity and morality to gain a better life. This was seen when Crofts listed many examples of public figures who survived exploitation such as 'Ecclesiastical Commissioners' who rented 'tax zollectors and sinners' and Croft 'brothers of Parliamentarian' who got factory rent with 600 daughters and not one of them getting pay enough to live. This shows how social hypocrisy outside the fourth wall contributes to exploitation. Honorable titles such as the 'M.P.' which control exploitative businesses such as factories are used by Shaw to expose the behavior of many Victorian public figures in societies where this is rarely discussed, and making people unable to speak out against such behavior. Shaw's describe the terrible effects of Capitalism forces people to fall into hypocrisy. Not even Vivie, the image of a good and modern woman is left tainted by the stains of Capitalism. So, *Mrs. Warren's Profession* sounds Shaw's call for social and political revolutions.

Cultural aspects are covered by norms, standards, societies, principles, rules, language, and education. The cultural aspect is also about the social aspects that include social classes, relationships, and how people live in the

nineteenth century. They are all part of the culture. In addition, culture also means human activity or human behavior as a display of their experience. Erik Erikson believed that the interaction between body, mind and cultural influences is the main factor in shaping someone's identity (Harder, 2009: no page). It can be concluded that culture is a major factor in shaping one's personality. In *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, this can be seen from character conversations, one example of how to act in society. That means what you have to do at present is to fit in society.

MRS WARREN. But you don't know all that that means; you're too young. It means a new dress every day; it means theatres and balls every night; it means having the pick of all the gentlemen in Europe at your feet; it means a lovely house and plenty of servants; it means the choicest of eating and drinking; it means everything you like, everything you want, everything you can think of. And what are you here? A mere drudge, toiling and moiling early and late for your bare living and two cheap dresses a year. Think over it. [*Soothingly*] You're shocked, I know. I can enter into your feelings; and I think they do you credit; but trust me, nobody will blame you: you may take my word for that. I know what young girls are; and I know you'll think better of it when you've turned it over in your mind. (Act IV. 158).

Mrs. Warren tries to explain to her daughter what culture really is and fashion reflects where you came from. What that person takes reflects their society. Although that does not affect Vivie's perspective about her mother and her profession. The development of Vivie's character is strongly influenced by society. Because since childhood Vivie live apart with her mother. It caused the character between Vivie and her mother are different. When her



mother told Vivie to do something in her life, but she ignored it. From the beginning Vivie had denied the community where her mother lived. That means she also denies the culture within that society. The way culture shapes her thinking about the norm and places her mother in a lower position in society.

MRS WARREN [*indignantly*] Of course not. What sort of mother do you take me for! How could you keep your self-respect in such starvation and slavery? And what's a woman worth? what's life worth? without self-respect! Why am I independent and able to give my daughter a first-rate education, when other women that had just as good opportunities are in the gutter? Because I always knew how to respect myself and control myself. Why is Liz looked up to in a cathedral town? The same reason. Where would we be now if we'd minded the clergyman's foolishness? Scrubbing floors for one and sixpence a day and nothing to look forward to but the workhouse infirmary. Don't you be led astray by people who don't know the world, my girl. The only way for a woman to provide for herself decently is for her to be good to some man that can afford to be good to her. If she's in his own station of life, let her make him marry her; but if she's far beneath him she can't expect it: why should she? it wouldn't be for her own happiness. Ask any lady in London society that has daughters; and she'll tell you the same, except that I tell you straight and she'll tell you crooked. That's all the difference. (Act II. 107-108)

The text above shows the terrible conditions that a woman in the Victorian Era must undergo. They were chained to follow the strict social conventions of society in the Victorian Era. This social rule is very torturing women because it causes a lot of oppression

against them. Mrs. Warren must undergo this kind of treatment but then she stops and lives her life against the strict social conventions of the Victorian Era society, because she values herself, and hates life according to social convention. Her efforts paid off, she was able to escape from poverty and even provide a good education to her daughter, Vivie Warren to be an honorable person. Below is a line that shows her life based on the Victorian social convention.

MRS WARREN. Yes, Heaven forgive me, it's true; and you are the only one that ever turned on me. Oh, the injustice of it! the injustice! the injustice! I always wanted to be a good woman. I tried honest work; and I was slave-driven until I cursed the day I ever heard of honest work. I was a good mother; and because I made my daughter a good woman she turns me out as if I were a leper. Oh, if I only had my life to live over again! I'd talk to that lying clergyman in the school. From this time forth, so help me Heaven in my last hour, I'll do wrong and nothing but wrong. And I'll prosper on it.

VIVIE. Yes: it's better to choose your line and go through with it. If I had been you, mother, I might have done as you did; but I should not have lived one life and believed in another. You are a conventional woman at heart. That is why I am bidding you goodbye now. I am right, am I not? (Act II. 164-165)

The quotations above illustrate that women during the Victorian era were stereotypes of being dependent, weak, low in self-esteem, hesitant and intellectually inferior, inferiority and no character to themselves. In terms of culture, everything in the Victorian Era are more related to men.

The religious aspect relates to the kind of religion held by the people. Religion is also related to the beliefs that exist in each person. In

addition, religion is also the basis of one's morality. Shaw illustrated Rev. Samuel Gardner and Archbishop of Canterbury as a religious person but they using their religion as a cover of their moral hypocrisy.

Reverend Samuel Gardner is a Frank's father, Mrs. Warren's one-time lover and pious scam, symbolize the Church of England which apparently concealed his source of income. The Reverend is not a morally acceptable priest as the people expected, but he was a man whose scrupulous past has resulted in blackmail. Supposedly, the Reverend upholds the propriety and control facade. However, he is the worst. He does not realize how bad he is and all of the characters who hide their true selves. When Frank has talked to his father, Reverend Gardner about his future, Frank tells his father that Vivie has a precious brain like money, but he said;

REVEREND. *[interrupting him  
austerely]* I was not thinking of  
money sir. I was speaking of higher  
things. Social position, for instance.  
(Act I. 72)

Reverend believes that there is something more important, social status for example. While the Reverend seems somewhat indifferent to money, implying that the Reverend is not indifferent to money through sentences; "*I was not thinking of money sir.*" The assumption is that the Reverend is not only concerned about social status but also money, and this is even more obvious.

His investments in materialism and reputation are the opposite of the "higher things" that Reverend should respect. His own son sees through his pretense, he constantly insults and disrespects him in front of others. He says of his father to Praed;

FRANK. *[quite softened, and looking at  
Praed with romantic admiration]* Of  
course. I forgot. Ever so thanks for  
reminding me. Perfect gentleman,

Praedy. Always were. My ideal  
through life. *[He rises to go, but pauses  
a moment between the two older men,  
and puts his hand on Praed's shoulder]*.  
Ah, if you had only been my father  
instead of this unworthy old man!  
*[He puts his other hand on his father's  
shoulder]*. (Act II. 94)

The audience also expect that the Archbishop of Canterbury to be a pure religion and representative of God's love for all. But in fact, the Archbishop was involved in a dirty business running a brothel.

CROFTS. ...You wouldn't cut the  
Archbishop of Canterbury, I  
suppose, because the Ecclesiastical  
Commissioners have a few  
publicans and sinners among their  
tenants... (Act III. 132)

Shaw represents a hypocritical society, a morally honorable member of society, but who is as corrupt and guilty as any other. Status as a religious person and also their investments in materialism and reputation leads them to be hypocrite. Based on dramaturgical theory, Reverend Samuel Gardner and Archbishop of Canterbury are also have the front stage and back stage. Front stage is when they are facing other people and stand as a honorable priest. In their front stage, Reverend Samuel Gardner and Archbishop of Canterbury stands as a good person who are always have a good attitude and produces beautiful words. They stand in the front stage when they plays their drama as a religious person and spread the good vibes that represent a honorable priest. Reverend back stage is when he is in their privacy area and no one sees him. In the story, Reverend back stage is his greed for materialism and reputation. He only cares about social status and money. And Canterbury's back stage is he involved in the dirty prostitution business, even though he with his preach opposed the business. In addition, the presentation of social position and

recognition highlights the role of Reverend and Archbishop's hypocrisy.

The discussion above, this study reveals that the literary works by the author reflect the condition at that time. And in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* play, it was reflected in the social, economic, political, and cultural aspects of the Victorian era. Then, based on the issue of hypocrisy, dominant comes from the upper class. Hypocrisy means double life, it means that people have two faces. In front of others, they are different treatment, being good people in front of people. But behind that they also give different treatment with different people.

Based on that, the analysis shows the relationship between hypocrisy and sociology. Hypocrisy in the character of the people, but also can be reflected in their society. Double life is much ahead of us and it can be seen all around us in the society.

### **The Impact of Hypocrisy to the Female Characters in *Mrs. Warren's Profession***

There are two main female characters analyzed in this study, Vivie Warren, a 22 years old Cambridge graduate student. Personally, she is portrayed as a smart and attractive woman among the women of her day even at the level described by the author playing an attractive woman. It is revealed also throughout the analysis that Vivie Warren has the characteristics of a New Woman and she is an extraordinary woman than other woman in the Victorian era in general. Typically, the Victorian woman's character are a dependent woman, low in self-esteem, weak, and intellectually inferior. But, Vivie Warren is different. Good human qualities are owned by her, things that in the Victorian Era are more related to men. This incident made Vivie Warren the common female antithesis of the Victorian Era.

As a matter of fact, the development of Vivie's character is strongly influenced by

society. Because since childhood Vivie lives apart from her mother. It creates two different women with different characters. Vivie thinks that what she becomes and does depends on society. Her mother's role has been replaced by society. It can be concluded that the society plays more in shaping the Vivie character.

And the other female character is Mrs. Warren, Vivie's mother. She is described in the stage direction as "between 40 and 50, formerly pretty, showily dressed in a brilliant hat and gay blouse fitting tightly over her bust and flanked by fashionable sleeves" (Act I. 61). Unlike her daughter, Mrs. Warren positions her in a quite unique position. Mrs. Warren positions herself as a woman who adopts both the characteristics of New Women and Victoria Women. They both live in the Victorian era which is famous as a hypocritical society.

The effect of the hypocrite society on female character is on their family relationship. This is very clear in the relationship between Mrs. Warren and Vivie, whose mutual hypocrisy towards each other, destroy their mother-children relationship. Vivie's rejection of Mrs. Warren as her mother, because of her mother's job. Even when Mrs. Warren tries to explain to Vivie why she should have a job like that, but Vivie refuses any explanation and considers it all as hypocrisy, "*I might done as you did; but I should not lived one life and believed in another. You are a conventional woman at heart.*" (Act IV. 165). Vivie's choice to leave her mother because of her bad profession and think that her mother was embarrassing, in line with the standards of Victorian society convention. She becomes part of the hypocrisy by turning back on her mother. Instead of a flare for change, Vivie is a symbol of society that Shaw warns his listeners against.

Mrs. Warren herself clearly displayed hypocrisy. She exclaimed "... *Oh, the hypocrisy of the world makes me sick!*" (Act II. 106). The statement indicates the anger and



disappointment of Mrs. Warren because of hypocrisy is that of marriage, women sell themselves into marriage and cheering societies, but when they sell themselves for unashamed sex, the public puts a negative stigma on them. Here, she uses melodrama as shown by the word 'Oh' to emphasize her rejection of people's reluctance to admit that marrying money in principle is the same as prostitution, and the hyperbole inherent in 'making me sick' exaggerates her dislike of people people who do not clearly admit the 'wrong' they do by comparing it with disease.

Mrs. Warren describes the hypocrisy of conventional morality that conceals a truth about how women are unjustly treated by Victorian idealism through marriage and prostitution on the same principle of selling women's bodies to benefit from men. While marriage is legally and socially acceptable to women, prostitution is perceived by society as unacceptable and immoral behavior. Mrs. Warren points out that prostitution is an economic alternative for poor women struggling from poverty caused by social systems. For middle class women, they are constrained by the traditional ideal wife role with conventional marriage that provides protection and material support from the husband for life. From a conventional rules at the time, these women had no choice but to adapt to the role of women who were organized and suppressed as wives, or as sexual objects for men because they did not have much opportunity in education, work, and social status like a men.

However, Mrs. Warren herself was guilty of this hypocrisy because she deliberately hide the fact that she continued her job from Vivie with fear that it would make Vivie not be respected or rejected by the society because of her profession. This shows that Mrs. Warren was not ready to openly confess the reality of her society as she claimed. Vivie finally saw this as hypocrisy and when her mother's profession was revealed, she rejected her mother's attitude by saying "... I

*should not have lived one life and believed in another..."*(Act IV. 165) In other words, the sentence indicates that she refused her mother because of her hypocrisy.

## CONCLUSION

Having analyzed Victorian society as the hypocrite society in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* by George Bernard Shaw from sociological and dramaturgical point of view, this study finds the relation between individuals and the society he or she belongs to. There are some social factors related to their hypocrisy.

This study uses sociological analysis by Laurensen and Swingewood. There are five aspects of social condition, economic condition, political condition, cultural condition, and religious condition at that time. Through these aspects, Shaw shows the morality of Victorian society in that era. Social conditions at that time showed about social class, prostitution, and the hypocrisy of their morality. This study also uses dramaturgy concept by Erving Goffman.

Shaw in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* clearly explores the Victorian society's hypocrisy and the impact of this hypocrisy to female characters. Hypocrisy means with a double life, it means that people have two faces. In front of one person and another, they show different treatment. The hypocrisy in the play can be regarded as an incompetence or the rejection of a character to live up to their ideals or virtues, and their attempt to conceal this moral deficiency. This is because mass hypocrisy raises fears of treatments such as being ostracized by respectable society, which prevents people from speaking out against social ills.

Victorian hypocrisy that depicted in this play are dominated by the upper class. The upper classes have a glamorous life, they usually have a relationship with the same class. Some people from the upper classes are portrayed as immoral like Sir George Croft, but that does not mean that

people from the other classes are not hypocritical. They are also hypocrites like Frank Gardner from the middle class. Shaw also represents a hypocritical society, members of society who are morally respectable like religious people, but who are just as corrupt and guilty as others. Shaw illustrated Rev. Samuel Gardner and Archbishop of Canterbury as a religious person but they using their religion as a cover of their moral hypocrisy.

The society hypocrisy influences the female's character life. In this play there are two main female character, Mrs. Kitty Warren and her daughter Vivie Warren. The characterization of these two women are independent-minded women. They both have different characters: while Vivie represented as a "New Woman" who has a masculine lifestyle, but Mrs. Warren portrayed as an ancient woman who uses her femininity as her profession. They live around hypocrite people.

The hypocrisy and social convention makes Mrs. Warren chose to work in prostitution. Mrs. Warren feels disappointed because she think that the marriage is only a hypocrisy, women sell themselves to marriage and happiness, but when they sell themselves for shameless sex, society puts a negative stigma on them. The difficult conditions make Mrs. Warren had to fight for herself and provide a better education and future for her daughter. The struggle to get a better life for herself and her daughter without fear of moral perception hated by the Victorians is a very remarkable thing. Unlike Vivie, she becomes part of the hypocrisy itself by not accepting her mother's profession. Although Mrs. Warren tries to explain to Vivie why she should have a job like that, but Vivie rejects any explanation and considers everything as hypocrisy. Vivie's choice to leave her mother because of her profession and think that her mother was embarrassing in line with the convention standards of Victorian society.

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